

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 01219 030621Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 NSCE-00

/069 W

----- 002343

R 030424Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3696

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 1219

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH

SUBJ: CHI PENG-FEI ROLE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1. IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE (EXCEPT IN CONNECTION WITH THE NPC) SINCE HE WAS REPLACED AS FOREIGN MINISTER, CHI PENG-FEI SHOWED UP AT THE AIRPORT TO GREET TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS JANUARY 31 AND ATTENDED THE BANQUET IN HIS HONOR. WHILE THE WILLIAMS VISIT IS AN UNUSUAL ONE, COMING JUST TWO MONTHS AFTER HIS LAST VISIT TO PEKING AND BEING BILLED AS A "WORKING VISIT", CHI'S APPEARANCE SUGGESTS THAT, IN HIS NEW ROLE AS SECRETARY -GENERAL OF THE NPC STANDING COMMITTEE, HE MIGHT TAKE SOME FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESPONSIBILITIES. CERTAINLY HIS BACKGROUND AS FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD FIT WELL INTO SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES AND WITH THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF STATE REMAINING VACANT BUT BEING FILLED FOR CEREMONIAL PURPOSES BY

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THE AGED CHU TEH, CHI COULD TAKE SOME OF THE STRAIN OFF
CHU. CHI PROVIDES THE NPC WITH A SUFFICIENTLY HIGH-
RANKING OFFICIAL WHO IS WELL-VERSED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
THIS MIGHT BE ONE OF HIS PRINCIPAL FUTURE ROLES.

2. OTHERWISE, THE CURRENT THREE VISITORS IN PEKING--
WILLIAMS, THE GAMBIA FOREIGN MINISTER, AND THE FOREIGN
MINISTER OF QUASI -INDEPENDENT PAPUA, NEW GUINEA -- PROVIDE
FEW CLUES AS TO HOW FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL BE DIVIDED UP
AMONG THE NEW PARTY AND STATE LEADERSHIP.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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